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EFFICIENCY ENGINEERING IN THE HOME

RADIO TALK, Home Demonstration Hour, NBC, December 10, 1936. Mrs. Henry  
Bubert, Easton, Mason County, Illinois

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Friends of the radio audience:

My family consisting of my husband, 14-year-old daughter, and father had lived in our modest 6-room cottage for eight years. The only modern conveniences we had were furnace and kitchen sink, and electric lights. We had been satisfied, not thinking it possible to make additional improvements believing that it would be too expensive.

Two years ago in our Home Economics Extension Program, the local leaders received a most helpful lesson on "More Efficient Kitchens." At that time I was one of the local leaders of my unit of Mason County, Illinois. My kitchen was very small, being 8 feet by 8 feet and it seemed that my kitchen furniture had to stay in one place. But the worst drawback was my feeling of being in a prison because the windows were narrow and so high I couldn't see out.

The night I came back from the training school, I moved a small table a little in front of the sink and next to the stove. This simple arrangement saved me 24 steps every time I washed dishes.

Many women were so interested in the lesson that the home adviser arranged with the University of Illinois home management specialist to spend three days in the county to discuss their kitchen plans. One of these conferences was held in my home. In my plan it was suggested bringing the ice box from the back porch into the kitchen to replace a three-corner cupboard which failed to meet my needs.

This change in my kitchen made it necessary to have more storage space. My daughter was just at the age to want to cook and could never find the stored-away equipment that was not used daily. Added storage space was greatly needed to help my daughter to be more independent. To solve this problem, my husband built a two-door cupboard to fit on a flat top cabinet, which had been my only space for storage and equipment. The home management specialist also suggested that the small table have wheels, thus making it serve more purposes. I think that this feature of a table-on-wheels has helped me to be more efficient saving steps and time. Any woman may have one, keeping the size so that it will pass thru any doorway.

Our sink was an open model but my husband built a two door small cupboard to fit under the left drain board. Previous to our lesson, I had been very proud of my sink but I found it was too low for my height. Later we were able to raise the sink. You may be interested in knowing how waste was disposed from our sink. A pipe that drains into an upright tile in the

(over)

ground, similar in size to the excavation of a well, which is six feet deep, is filled with tin cans and covered with tin, and then with soil.

We were getting along and had no definite plans for doing anymore to our kitchen, but my husband received his bonus last spring. We were proud of our home, but decided to enlarge the kitchen, four feet each way. The reason for this additional space on length of kitchen is that it would allow added length to an unused closet, thus making space for a bathroom. With the help of the University specialist and our home adviser, we planned where best to place the kitchen furniture and decided on where to locate built-in cabinets. Our entire family, including my husband, three brothers, and a brother-in-law worked together remodeling our kitchen and adding a bath room. Their abilities enabled them to do the carpenter work, plumbing, installing hot water heater, painting, wiring, and masonry work. Our community has no water system or sewage disposal so these problems had to be properly solved. A septic tank was made for sewage disposal. To provide the water supply two electric water pumps were installed, bringing in soft water or in an emergency hard water. This enables me to have hot and cold soft water in the kitchen, basement, and bathroom. With my aged father, who is 88, the bathroom has been an added comfort to our family living.

By enlarging the kitchen, it did away with an enclosed entrance which was 3 1/2 foot space around an open basement stairway. This made it possible to have a grade entrance eliminating many unnecessary steps and providing greater safety in the home.

The three brothers who live alone were so enthusiastic about my efficient kitchen, they used some surplus materials left from our remodeling to enclose a large back porch, making a kitchen. Some of the helpful features of their new kitchen include a sink of proper height, pump, and a table on wheels. So you can see how good work goes on and on. This has been one among the many helpful suggestions of our Home Demonstration Program. I do think every homemaker can make some changes in her kitchen for greater ease in working, even tho it is only placing a paring knife at a spot where it is most often used.

Good-bye, and thank you.

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